



Welaka Gazette

July 2021

From The Mayor's Desk

Summer is upon us in the Town of Welaka, and I hope everyone is having a safe and happy summer. With the advent of summer comes Hurricane Season, and the Town staff has been busy preparing to weather the storms. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has made its predictions for 2021. They are saying a likely range of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 5 major hurricanes (category 3, 4, or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher) is expected. So now is the time to prepare. I encourage everyone to have a Disaster Supply Kit; I have included an example of a kit recommended by the Florida Department of Emergency Management on page 8. Continuing on the storm preparedness discussion, our General Maintenance Department continues to clean out stormwater drains and open up ditches to ensure storm run-off water will flow properly as we continue to get these afternoon storms. Also, I recently met with Mike Troxel, Putnam County Public Works Director. We discussed the drainage on CR 309 and CR308B and Front St. and some road work we need to do in front of our Water Plant. It was a very productive meeting and I look forward to continuing to work with Mike and Commissioner Pickens in the coming days.

Concerning the update of our Town Ordinances, our Welaka Town Council is working diligently with our Town Attorney to prepare each of them for their own Special Called Workshop. The way the process works is that each Council Member was assigned an Ordinance to work on with our Town Attorney and our Chief of Police. Then, once they have a new ordinance draft we will call a Special Workshop to discuss with the Welaka Town Council and receive input from the Town Residents. Before the Workshop, we will be posting the draft ordinance on our Website and Facebook page to allow residents an opportunity to review it before the Special Workshop. Keep in mind the draft of the ordinance is merely a starting point for the new ordinance and NOT the new ordinance. The Welaka Town Council, with input from our residents can modify it as they see fit. Also, we will not be voting to adopt any ordinances during any of our Special Workshops. All ordinances will be adopted at our regular monthly Town Council meetings. The sole purpose of the Special Workshops is to create an environment that will allow for transparency and encourage public discussion and input on any proposed ordinance. Rest assured, you will have an opportunity to have your voice heard before adopting any Town Ordinance.

Finally, as many of you know, I was recently appointed to the Florida League of Cities Land Use and Economic Development Committee. I have served on the board a short amount of time, yet I have received a good education on Land Use thus far. Many residents have come to me in the past few months to express their concerns on what the Town of Welaka will look like in the future. I can assure you I will fight on your behalf to ensure that we have

responsible growth to protect Welaka's small-town charm. As we speak, I am going through our Codes and Zoning Ordinances and making some recommendations to our Welaka Town Council on steps we can take in the short term as we work to create a more comprehensive set of Codes and Zoning Ordinances. Please understand that I am for positive and responsible growth and pro-business. Still, we have to do it in a way that will better the lives of our residents. Again I hope everyone has a safe and Happy 4th of July and a great summer. I look forward to talking to you again next month.

Best Regards,
Mayor Jamie D. Watts

From Our Council President

Welaka is a hot commodity! I'm sure you have noticed that interest in our sleepy little community has skyrocketed in the last few months. If you were in Welaka in the early 2000s, you might have noticed similar outside interest. As I have thought about the differences and similarities between these two surges of interest, I've tried to focus on how not to repeat the downturn of 2008 that left many of our prime properties desolate. One major difference, one that brings a measure of comfort, is the fact that the interest in our community this time around seems to be coming from more than just real estate speculators trying to make a quick buck. Interest appears to be coming from those who want to invest in our community in the longer term.

There was a question submitted to our Council and Mayoral candidates at the Candidates' Forum: How do you plan to handle growth while keeping Welaka the small Town we love? This question seems to hold greater weight than ever before and is one for all of us to consider. Our situation is unique as Welaka doesn't seem poised to become a commuter community dealing with the challenges those face. Rather it appears to be on the verge of becoming a community that is focused on catering to recreationists looking to take advantage of our beautiful, natural surroundings. We have the opportunity to mold and create what we as residents desire in the long term. Let's hope that this is one of the first issues the citizen's advisory committee addresses.

In Your Service,
Council President Jessica Finch

Appointment of Town Boards and Committees

The Welaka Town Council is working diligently to appoint residents to the five boards listed below. Each board consists of five members, including a chairperson. We have listed each of the boards along with a brief description of what each board oversees. If you are interested in serving on one or more committees please contact your Welaka Town Council Members at the emails listed below or by calling our Welaka Town Clerk, Jennifer McDaniel, at (386) 467-9800 Option 3 by July 12, 2021. Each Council Member will make one appointment to each board.

Welaka Town Council Contact Information

Mayor Jamie D. Watts: jwatts@welaka-fl.gov

Council President Jessica Finch: jfinch@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Marianne Milledge: mmilledge@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Tonya Long: tonyalong@welaka-fl.gov

Councilwoman Kathy Washington: kwashington@welaka-fl.gov

Charter Committee

The purpose of the Charter Committee is to guide the process of updating the Town Charter, which is the Constitution of the Town of Welaka. The Charter Committee will do this through a series of public meetings to garner resident's input. Once the new Charter is completed it will be placed on the ballot to be adopted by the Town voters. To serve on this committee you must be a resident of the Town of Welaka and a registered voter who can vote in Town Elections.

Events Committee

The purpose of the events committee is to work with our Deputy Clerk Rhonda Walsh to plan events that the residents would like to see hosted by the Town of Welaka. Such events include parades, festivals, and art walks. You do not have to be a resident or a registered voter to serve on this board.

Citizens Advisory Board

The purpose of the Citizens Advisory Board is to meet on an ongoing basis to identify matters that the residents of the Town of Welaka wish to see the Welaka Town Council make a priority. This will be accomplished through a series of Workshops held in the evenings to encourage better participation. These Workshops will be open to all residents and will allow residents to come and express their opinions and concerns. To serve on this committee you must be a resident of the Town of Welaka.

Zoning Board

The Zoning Board is charged with recommending to the Welaka Town Council the boundaries of the various zoning districts and appropriate regulations to be enforced therein and any proposed amendments to the zoning rules. To serve on this committee you must be a resident of the Town of Welaka.

Code Enforcement Board

The authority for the code enforcement process is rooted in Chapter 162 of the Florida Statutes. This board is a quasi-judicial—meaning "like court"—body, which hears and adjudicates cases involving code violations identified and prosecuted by the Town of Welaka. To serve on this committee, you must be a resident of the Town of Welaka.



Blood Drive Drive

Welaka Town Hall will be hosting a blood drive in partnership with Lifesouth Community Blood Centers on Monday, July 19 2021 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please come out that day and join us. Blood donation is vital to our community. Please do your part in helping.

Monthly Town Meetings

All meetings are at Welaka Town Hall

Located at 400 4th Ave. Welaka, Fl. 32193

July 13, 2021

Zoning Board Meeting 5:30 PM

Code Enforcement Meeting 5:45 PM

Town Council Meeting 6:30 PM

All three will be live streamed on our Town of Welaka Facebook Page and on our YouTube Channel

July Meter Reading

Will be reading water meters July 16th. If you have any issues with your water or sewer remember the Town Utility Department is available 24 hours a day at (386) 467-8677 or TDD (800) 955-8771. We ask you to please do your part in conserving water.

Garbage Pickup

Garbage and Recycling pick up will be July 6th, 12th, 19th, 26th. Yard debris pick up will be July 12th and the 26th. Please remember to call Waste Pro at (386) 328-5445 if you have any issues with your garbage, yard debris or recycling pick up.

Pay Your Water Bill Online

You can now pay your water bill online using our Online Utility Bill pay system. To get started go to www.welakawater.com and create your account. In your account you can track your monthly water usage and even set up your account for auto pay so you never have to worry about a late charge again. If you need assistance setting up your account online please call our Utility Department at (386) 467-9800 option 4. You can also drop your payment by Town Hall anytime using our Utility Payment drop box located to the right of the front door of Town Hall.

June's Recognitions and Proclamations

Town of Welaka Proclamation 2021 -04

Recognizing The Winners of The Florida Bass Federation's Junior Anglers State Championship

Town of Welaka Resolution of Respect For Elder Richard "Blessed" Milledge

November 18, 1959 - May 14, 2021

If you would like to recognize a Town of Welaka resident for dedicated community service to our Town, a local student with exceptional grades, or to nominate a Town resident who is celebrating a landmarked birthday such as turning 100 years old, please contact our Town Clerk Jennifer McDaniel at (386) 467-9800 or by email at jennifermcdaniel@welaka-fl.gov. We will be happy to recognize them at our next Council Meeting by public recognition.

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for the Town of Welaka

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is groundwater from wells which are chlorinated and aerated for disinfection purposes and draw from the Floridan Aquifer.

In 2018, the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and a search of the data sources indicated no potential sources of contamination near our wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP SWAPP website at <https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Town of Welaka at (386) 467-9800. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, located at 400 Fourth Avenue.

The Town of Welaka routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020. Data obtained before January 1, 2020 and presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$): one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample. **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l):** one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Water Quality Results

Inorganic Contaminants

Results in the Level Detected column for inorganic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic (ppb)	4/2018	N	1.8	N/A	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	4/2018	N	0.0048	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	4/2018	N	0.2	N/A	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4/2018	N	0.089	N/A	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	4/2018	N	40	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Stage 1 Disinfectants

For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	1/2020 – 12/2020	N	1.18	0.96 – 1.50	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	10/2020	N	28.96	N/A	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	10/2020	N	5.14	N/A	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection

The Annual Disinfection Byproduct were due to be sampled in in the month of September but were not collected until October. Since they were not collected in the month specified in the Annual Monitoring Plan. Results from the October sampling were in compliance. Future sampling events will be collected in the correct month.

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	6/2020	N	0.0057	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Welaka is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting

from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at the Town of Welaka would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.



DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

General

- At least two weeks supply of medication, medical supplies used regularly and a list of allergies
- List of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Flashlight
Do not use candles and be sure to have enough batteries
- Radio
Battery operated or hand cranked radio, a NOAA weather radio
- Cash
Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm

Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip info
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

Clothing

- Include seasonal or rain gear and sturdy shoes or boots.

Special Needs Items

- Be sure to include specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and those family members with a disability.

First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

Food and Water

- Food
Enough for at least seven (7) days, nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils
- Water (1 gallon per person)

Important Documents

- Insurance cards
 - Medical records
 - Bank numbers
 - Credit card numbers
 - Copy of social security card
 - Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
 - Other personal documents
Set of car, house, and office keys
 - Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
 - Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
 - Copy of will
- *Items should be kept in a water proof container*

Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:
county emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contact, friends & family

COVID-19 Supplies

- Face masks
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer